



The Voter

A Publication by the League of Women
Voters of Ames, IA
February 2006

From the Co-Presidents



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JANE GREIMAN**
Who died February 4, 2006
We thank you for your
contributions to the League
during the past 32 yrs

Dear League Friends:

My letter for this issue was ready,
but when I heard this morning the

news about Jane's death I knew I had to share some personal thoughts with you. The first time I met Jane was at the Octagon. We were both taking a pottery class; she the accomplished artist, me someone that plays with clay. I did not know much about her then, I had just moved to Ames. Yet from that moment I felt drawn to her caring personality.

Through the following years our roads have crossed on various levels. First through the Ecumenical summer children's program that our communities of faith were involved, then I became aware of her political activism and then during the last few years we served together on the League's Board.

She was at present the chair of its Nominating Committee. I learned a lot from her and will miss the times that we shared. The way I will always remember her is not because she served on the Legislature, which she did, or for her recognition in the public arena, or her wonderful artistic talent. But because she was a special human being, who took time to share of herself and was interested in listening to other people's stories.

That is the Jane that will continue to live in my memory. Safe journey Jane and thanks for the gift of sharing your life with us.

Additional Thoughts From the Co- President

It always seems to me that League members are involved in such a variety of ways that it is hard to list all the various activities. First of all, we want to congratulate two of our members that on January 3rd started as new members in our City Governing body: **Ann Campbell**, our new Mayor and **Jim Popken**, who took office as one of the City's At-Large representatives.

Six of our members Jan Beran, Jeannette Bohnenkamp, Barbara Gwiasda, Betty Johnson, Lauris Olson and Mary Richards have volunteered to serve on the LWVIA Lobby corps. Please read more inside this VOTER.

On another note, involvment in league activities is important to the continuation of our organization. Please read about LWVUS National Convention and more details on the upcoming program. This is a great opportunity for members to get a better understanding of the League.

In addition, make plans to attend our **March 16 General meeting**. The program will be on "Can We Reclaim Our Government?" presented by Patricia Johnson (Decorah) and Nancy Brown (Ames), members of the LWVIA Advocacy Committee. The League wants to change the way political campaigns are funded in Iowa by promoting legislative action on campaign finance reform known as "clean elections," which provides public financing of campaigns. Mark that date in your calendar and be present to learn more about this vital issue.

Finally, Lobby Day is coming up. This is an opportunity to talk with Legislators about issues of concern and to learn more about lobbying. Please read enclosed information.

The League is made up of all of you and not just by the Board of Directors. **Your personal involvement is vital if we are going to make a difference.**

League Information

Meet a Member Jeri Prescott



I first joined the League in 1966, I believe. After moving from Ames I was not involved again until the 1990s. I grew up in a family interested in politics in Marshall County. I had a career in special education and taught at Beloit, Ballard Schools, and Ames Schools. I was also a consultant for Heartland Education Agency and was the teacher on the Adolescent Psychiatric Unit at MGMC for a number of years. I retired from teaching eight years ago.

I am married to Jim, a retired ISU economist. We have a son who is married and three grandchildren. I love to travel and have visited all fifty states as well as a number of foreign countries. I have been active in AAUW and have served as state public policy director. At present, I am on the state public policy committee. I love to read and am in two book groups. I also tutor in the adult literacy program. I am employed by the Story County Auditor's Office part-time and work around election time setting up election equipment, testing it, and visiting election sites. This job has opened my eyes to what is involved in an election and the costs. I wish more people had an interest in and appreciation for our electoral system.

Now that I am almost completely retired, I go to Florida with my husband sometime in January and return to Iowa in early March every year.

Welcome New Members

Michael Kitchell
Tom Flack
Susan Radke
Jean Hagert Dow
Karen Peterson

We would like to learn more about our new members. We hope that each of you can send Barbara Munson (amesmunson@aol.com) a brief e-mail about yourself and why you joined the league!

LWVIA Lobby Corps

The *Iowa Lobby Corps* (ILC) is a new LWVIA project, which began with the 2006 session of the Iowa Legislature. The goal of the ILC is to advocate in an organized, vigorous manner on LWVIA legislative priorities to achieve the desired action on each priority.

Each Corps volunteer will 'adopt' one of the priorities and focus on it during the session. The member will become familiar with the issue, follow its progress in the Legislature, attend relevant committee meetings if possible, and lobby the legislators involved at the key times.

On January 23, Jan Beran, Jeannette Bohnenkamp, Barbara Gwiasda, Betty Johnson, Lauris Olson and Mary Richards received initial training with LWVIA lobbyist, Judie Hoffman. The activities will support Judie's efforts, increase recognition of the LWV and its nonpartisan issue-oriented approach, and hopefully lead to success on the legislative priorities.

The Iowa League is looking for members who are willing to go to Des Moines periodically, February – April 2006, to do this advocacy work.

If you are interested in becoming an Iowa Lobby Corps member for the 2006 session of the Iowa Legislature, please contact Jeannette Bohnenkamp or Pat Johnson, Advocacy Committee Chairperson (pat@oneotaslopes.org).

New Member Bios

Jean Hagert Dow I am a visual artist who is inspired by creative minds. I was impressed by the strong women who spoke on their involvement with LWV, who are willing to discuss what is fair.

Kat Mellen Charron I am a new prof in the History Department at ISU, with specialties in U.S. 20th century political and social history, African American history, and women's history. I became interested in the League due to my research and also as a way to learn about my new community.

Pat Miller I have been the Director of the Iowa State University Lectures Program for nearly 25 years. I am also a member of the Women's Leadership Consortium on campus, which coordinates programs and initiatives and encourages the advancement of women into leadership positions. The League's commitment to have an impact on public policies through citizen education and advocacy is certainly in line with those efforts.

League Activities

Board Allocates funds for LWVUS Convention

National Convention will be in Minneapolis, June 10-13, 2006

We are fortunate to have the convention so close to Ames, as it will not be held in the Midwest again for several years. This is an exceptional opportunity to meet members from other parts of the country and to become involved in the work of the national League.

The LWVUS National Convention will be held June 10-13, 2006, with Pre-Convention training the afternoon of June 9, at the Hilton Minneapolis in Minneapolis, MN.

Some of the non-business highlights include the banquet on Monday night (June 12) with Garrison Keillor as the featured speaker.

The Ames League is eligible to send two delegates, but we may send additional non-voting members. The Ames LWV Board allocated \$2,000 to subsidize non-voting member fees. If you want to attend and to apply for funds (\$285 for the entire convention, including the banquet, or \$125 for one day), please contact Jackie Manatt 232-0202 or e-mail: rmanatt@iastate.edu by **April 30**. Registration deadline for the convention is May 16. All sessions, including workshops and training sessions, are open to all registered members.

Further details may be found in the National Voter and on the LWVUS website: www.lvv.org/convention

Mark Your Calendar

Book Club (Please note corrected information from last month)

February 22nd (Wednesday) 1:30 p.m. at the home of Frances Smith, 2159 Country Club Blvd, 292-9295. We will be discussing *The Price of Loyalty* by Ron Sussking led by Randi Peters.

Board Meeting

March 2, 2006 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m.
At the home of Jeannette Bohnenkamp, 2222 Barr Ave.

General Meeting

February 16, 2006 (Thursday)
7:30 "Organizing for Local Advocacy"
Bethesda Lutheran Church - The Commons (next to the sanctuary) 1517 Northwestern Ave.

Fall Finance Drive

We appreciate the friends and members of the LWV of Ames who have contributed generously to support the League's 2005-2006 activities. Special thanks go to the League members who donated an afternoon (or two) last November to assist with the Fall Finance Drive mailing: Jackie Runyan, Marlys Potter, Jean Peterson, Mary Gillette, Jeannette Bohnenkamp, Selva Lehman, and Jeri Prescott.

Although we have had a successful fall fundraising season, donations are always welcome and should be sent to Jackie Manatt, LWV-Ames Treasurer, 2926 Monroe Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Betty Baird & Karen Bolluyt
Finance Co-Chairpersons

February Meeting to Focus on Living Wage Advocacy

On Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Jan Beran and Karen Bolluyt will lead a session focused on an advocacy plan our chapter can use to support our position on Living Wage for Ames and Story County. Jan and Karen will present a draft advocacy plan for discussion. We hope you will be there with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

The February meeting will be in Bethesda Lutheran's conference room at 1517 Northwestern.

League of Women Voters® of Iowa Lobby Day

Tuesday, February 21, 2006
Starting at 9:30 A.M.

Morning Session at Calvary Baptist Church
606 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA

Afternoon Sessions at the IOWA STATE CAPITOL
(Very Short Walk from the Church)

ARRANGE NOW TO MEET WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS
FOR LUNCH OR FOR AN AFTERNOON APPOINTMENT

Car Pool Please call:
Jackie Manatt at 232-0202

League of Women Voters of Ames
4037 Fletcher Boulevard
Ames, IA 50014
Co-Presidents:
Jeanette Bohnenkamp
Selva Lehman
Voter Editor: Julie Snyder-Yuly

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The 2005 Political Directory and Voter Guide has been distributed to the Ames Public Library, City Hall, Story County Auditor's office and many other places around town. It can also be found on LWV of Ames website at www.ames.ia.lwvnet.org.